

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
Sent: 12/8/2011 10:15:41 AM
To: tom.zeller@huffingtonpost.com; David Bloomgren/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: Re: dimock

Tom,

We're getting back to you on EJ. We're issuing our annual enforcement results today and that's a good starting point for stories on EJ communities and how we are incorporating EJ into our work. The site is not live yet but I've pulled some of the key highlights for you. We can get you more details on the cases and EJ impacts if you'd like or have folks who are familiar with the case walk you through the settlement agreements. Also worth taking a look at our EJ page from last year's results. This outlines several of the steps we took in 2010 to advance EJ issues. Here's the link:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/reports/endofyear/eoy2010/ej/index.html>

My colleague David Bloomgren here will be helping with this.

Thanks,
Betsaida

Environmental Justice and Enforcement

Environmental justice has been a consideration in how EPA enforces environmental laws for many years. In 2011, through Plan EJ 2014, EPA focused and accelerated efforts to identify, assess, and address EJ concerns when developing and implementing enforcement and compliance strategies and activities. EPA also accelerated ongoing efforts to communicate more effectively with overburdened communities about our enforcement actions and program activities. As illustrated by the cases highlighted here, EPA is advancing environmental justice goals and achieving results through the strategies outlined in Plan EJ 2014 "Advancing EJ through Compliance and Enforcement".

Air

Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO) will cover all of NIPSCO's coal-fired power plants, located in Chestertown, Michigan City, Wheatfield and Gary, Ind. NIPSCO has agreed to invest approximately \$600 million in pollution control technology that will protect public health and \$9.5 million on projects that will benefit the environment and human health in communities located near the NIPSCO facilities. Reducing harmful air pollutants will benefit the communities, particularly communities disproportionately impacted by environmental risks and vulnerable populations, including children.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) resolved alleged Clean Air Act violations at 11 of its coal-fired plants in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The settlement will require TVA to invest an estimated \$3 to \$5 billion on new and upgraded state-of-the-art pollution controls that will prevent approximately 1,200 to 3,000 premature deaths, 2,000 heart attacks and 21,000 cases of asthma attacks each year, resulting in up to \$27 billion in annual health benefits. TVA will also invest \$350 million on clean energy projects that will reduce pollution, save energy and protect public health and the environment. These investments will advance environmental justice by reducing energy costs for low-income communities and by reducing pollution in overburdened communities.

Water

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Clean Water Act settlement will address the flow of untreated sewage into Cleveland area waterways and Lake Erie. The settlement will safeguard water quality and protect human health by capturing and treating more than 98 percent of wet weather flows entering the combined sewer system, which services the city of Cleveland and 59 adjoining communities. The settlement will also require the sewer district to invest at least \$42 million in green infrastructure projects. The sewer district will collaborate with local community groups, including those representing minority and/or low-income populations, in selecting the locations and types of green infrastructure projects to propose.

EPA announced a comprehensive settlement with the Department of the Interior (DOI) to address alleged violations of waste, water, air, toxics and community right-to-know laws at schools and public water systems in Indian Country owned, operated, or the legal responsibility of DOI's Indian Affairs Office. The settlement will advance environmental justice by protecting students' health, including children, and the health of communities in Indian Country by reducing potential exposure to environmental hazards.

Waste

Air Products has agreed to pay nearly \$1.5 million in civil penalties to resolve hazardous waste mismanagement violations at its Pasadena, Texas chemical manufacturing facility. The settlement resolves Air Products' Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) violations in transferring spent acid to a neighboring fertilizer manufacturing plant. The actions taken by this settlement will reduce the mismanagement and risk of the release of a billion gallons of toxic and acidic waste waters from this facility and the neighboring facility into the Houston Ship Channel, groundwater, and the surrounding area which has a significant minority and low-income population.

Betsaida Alcantara
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From: Tom Zeller <tom.zeller@huffingtonpost.com>
To: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 12/08/2011 09:51 AM
Subject: Re: dimock

Thanks for this. No plans to immediately write anything, no. Just following events...

Let me know where we stand on the EJ stuff. Anxious to tuck into that...

TOM ZELLER JR. | Senior Reporter
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On Tue, Dec 6, 2011 at 7:22 PM, <Alcantara.Betsaida@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Tom,
Sorry for the delay on this. I've been having blackberry problems all day. To answer your question: we reviewed data provided to us by PADEP and residents so far. We haven't done our own sampling. You writing a story on this?

Below is our latest statement.

Regards,
Betsaida Alcantara
[202-494-3997](tel:202-494-3997)(bb)

EPA has heard the concerns of the residents of Dimock and we want to ensure that the safety of their drinking water is a top priority. Natural gas will continue to play an important role in our nation's clean energy future and we want to ensure that it is developed safely. At the request of residents, EPA visited Dimock area homes on November 10, 2011 and reviewed well sampling data for wells impacted by the Cabot Oil and Gas Company drilling activities. EPA made a preliminary review of the data provided by PADEP and the residents and while it did not indicate an immediate health

threat to well water users, we assured the residents that we will continue to review the latest information. We have received an additional 300 pages worth of data from the residents that we are in the process of reviewing. As soon as we've completed this analysis, we will share our findings with the community, the state and the company.

From: Tom Zeller [tom.zeller@huffingtonpost.com]
Sent: 12/06/2011 12:06 PM EST
To: Trish Taylor; David Polish; Betsaida Alcantara
Subject: dimock

Hi all - Quick question on the Dimock water situation and Trish's email below. Did EPA collect well water samples directly from all the homes of Dimock residents who have, until recently, been receiving water shipments from Cabot Oil? Or more simply what was the nature of EPA's most recent well sampling there? Appreciate the clarification. -Tom Z.

-----Original Message-----

From: Taylor.Trish <Taylor.Trish@epamail.epa.gov>
Sent: Fri, Dec 2, 2011 6:34 am
Subject: Follow-up status re: Nov 10, 2011 visit with Dimock PA residents

Dear Dimock Residents,

This email is a follow-up to the visits to Dimock area homes by EPA on November 10, 2011 and the subsequent review of well sampling data for wells impacted by the Cabot Oil and Gas Company drilling activities. EPA has conducted a preliminary review and screening of the data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and residents. While we are continuing our review, to date, the data does not indicate that the well water presents an immediate health threat to users. EPA will continue to review available information related to the concerns of Dimock area residents. We are continuing to work with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania going forward on this issue.

Please feel free to call me or David Polish, Community Involvement Coordinator, at [\(215\) 814-3327](tel:215-814-3327), if you have further questions.

Sincerely,
Trish Taylor, Community Involvement Coordinator
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division

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